

Message Text

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10

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07

ACDA-07 DHA-02 /069 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN:JN

APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

ARA/CEN:MBOVA

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R 192350Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 206945

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM SHLAUDEMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: FMS TRANSACTIONS WITH GON: M-16'S AND M-60'S

REF: MANAGUA 3900

1. THE MESSAGE UNDER REFERENCE SEEMS TO REFLECT A MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION ON THIS ISSUE. THE FRASER HEARINGS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH SEPTEMBER. WE BELIEVE THAT FAILURE TO DEFER FINAL APPROVAL UNTIL THOSE HEARINGS ARE COMPLETED, AND FRASER HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE THE NICARAGUAN SITUATION AGAIN IF HE SO CHOOSES, WOULD BE UNNECESSARILY PROVOCATIVE AND POSSIBLY DAMAGING TO THE GON'S INTERESTS AS WELL AS OUR OWN.

2. THAT DELAY SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS A "THREAT" OR "PRESSURE," AND IS NOT SO INTENDED. IN FACT, THE

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EXAMPLE OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION SHUTTING CHILE COMPLETELY

OFF FROM ACCESS TO U.S. ARMS SHOULD V TE THE NEED
FOR ANY FURTHER EXHORTATIONS ON OUR PART. IT IS ALSO
THE CASE THAT THE GON IS FREE TO PURCHASE THESE WEAPONS
IN EUROPE IF THE NECESSARY DELAY IN OUR RESPONSE IS
UNACCEPTABLE.

3. MY OWN VIEW REMAINS THAT 10,000 M-16'S IS AN
EXCESSIVE NUMBER AND THAT WE SHOULD HOLD TO THE
ORIGINAL FIGURE. ROBINSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SMALL ARMS, POLICIES, ARMS EXPORT LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cahillha
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE206945
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HWSHLAUDEMAN:JN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760319-0587
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760836/aaaabfnd.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MANAGUA 3900
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <02 NOV 2004 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FMS TRANSACTIONS WITH GON: M-16'S AND M-60'S
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, SHUM, NU, US
To: MANAGUA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006